Clauses

**Independent Clauses**: An independent clause expresses a complete thought. It can stand alone in a sentence.

Ex. We decided to cancel our picnic.

Ex. I was punished with a detention.

Ex. We went to Dairy Queen for ice cream.

**Subordinate Clauses:** A subordinate clause contains a subject and a verb, but it *does not* express a complete thought. \*It ***cannot*** stand alone.

Ex. Since it was raining outside

Ex. Because I skipped class

Ex. After we ate dinner

Subordinate Clauses ***must*** be combined with independent clauses in order to express a complete thought.

Ex. Since it was raining outside, we decided to cancel our picnic.

Ex. Because I skipped class, I was punished with a detention.

Ex. After we ate dinner, we went to Dairy Queen for ice cream.

\*Subordinate Clauses may be introduced by the following words:

*If, Because, Even though, Although, While, That, Since, After, Before, Unless, Until, When, Whenever, Etc.*